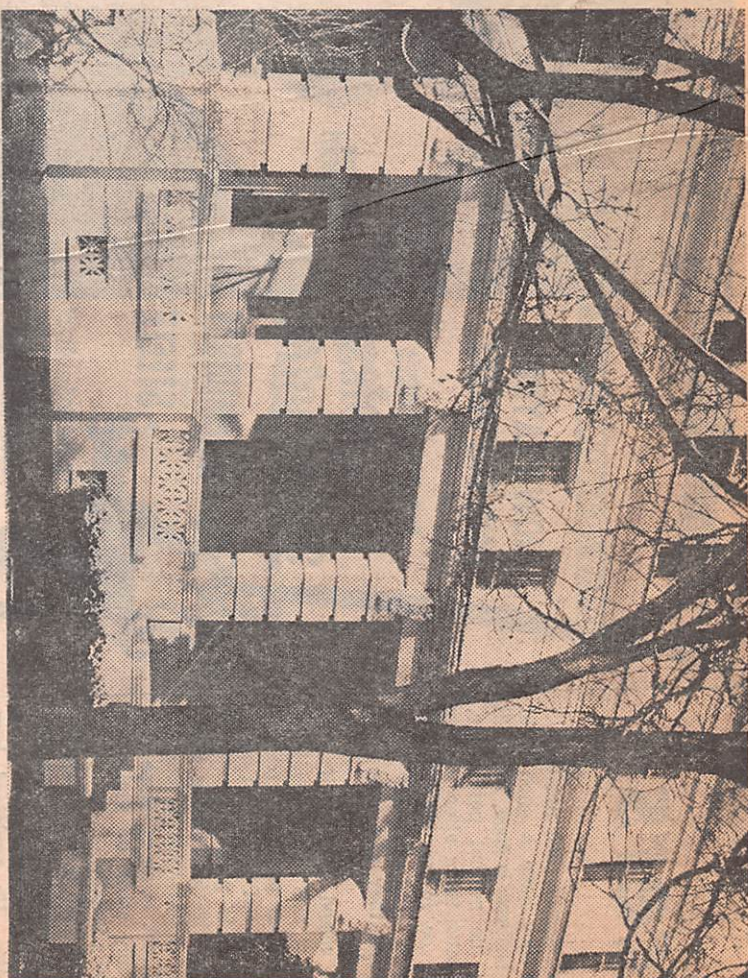




Junious Gordon examines one of the earliest dial telephones which is displayed at museum.



Once a dormitory-library for electrical engineering students, this building now houses museum and plant worker apartments.

Spark Of History At Olmsted

Wayne Barnes
cavefater 2002

18 Jan 68

Des. News 10 Jan 1968
By LEO PERRY

Deseret News Staff Writer

PROVO — Some of Utah's early electrical relics are part of the display at a little-known Olmsted's museum at the mouth of Provo Canyon near here.

Old time light bulbs, early electric appliances, and some of the first electrical equipment manufactured are among the scores of items on display at the Olmstead Plant Museum, a building maintained by Utah Power and Light Company.

DRAW ATTENTION

Some of the items which annually draw attention include automatic telephone equipment, one of the earliest dial systems; volt meters, used in early experiments in Colorado and Utah; one of the earliest electric powered washers, early electric ranges and pioneer electrical equipment.

The museum caters to anyone who wants to inspect the relics but reservations should be made in advance so that a guide can be arranged, according to Conder Smoot, superintendent.

PRIME INTEREST

Of special interest in the museum are several books from P. N. Nunn's library including a copy of the third edition of "Alternating Current Phenomena" by Steinmetz.



Mr. Gordon and Emmett Miller, both plant employees check agitator on old-time hand operated washing machine with cedar-stave tub.

L. L. Nunn was the originator of Olmsted. He built the first dam in Provo Canyon in 1897, and later came the power plant named Nunn's

Provo Station. Power from the plant provided electrical power for the mines and mills in the Mecur-Eureka-Provo area and the first 40,000 volt

line in the world went into operation.

The plant at the mouth of Provo Canyon was construct-

ed by Mr. Nunn in 1903 and was named Olmsted after one of the engineers.

But there was a shortage of electrical engineers to run the power plant. So Mr. Nunn, aided by his brother, P. N. Nunn, organized the Telluride Institute in 1903, where eager young men went to school and learned about the new science of electricity.

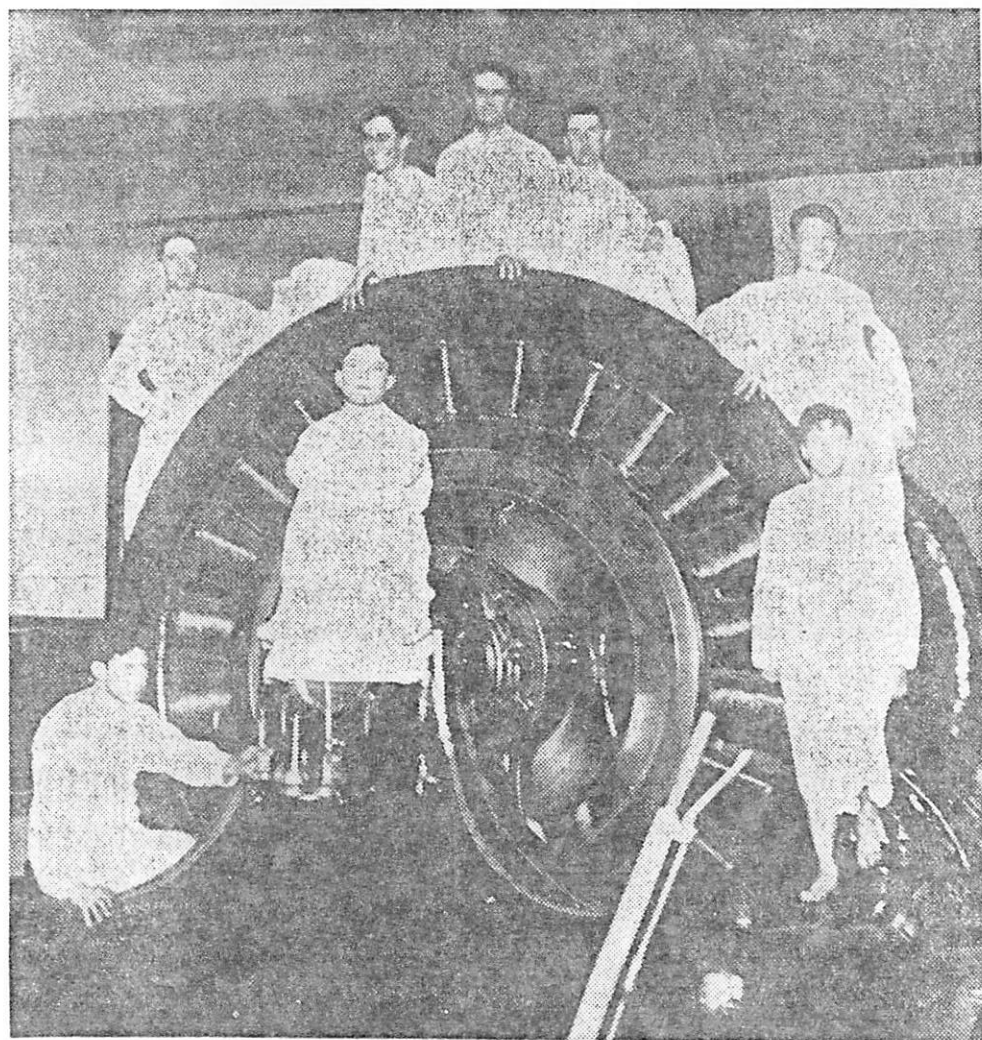
Officials said as many as 40 students were enrolled at one time to study electricity in the classroom and on the job at the institute. The instruction continued until 1912, when Olmsted was acquired by Utah Power and Light. By this time, universities and colleges were offering electrical engineering in their courses.

Junious Gordon, chief operator at Olmsted, said the museum is especially popular with electrical engineering students at Brigham Young University.

"When they inspect this early electrical equipment they recognize the relics are the forebears of today's ultra-modern, automatic electrical equipment," he said.

The first unit of a modern electrical steam plant was built a short distance west of the Olmsted Plant in 1936. Another product unit was added at the plant later.

Provo River To Oquirrh— First U.S. Long Power Line



Some of the Nunn boys were alerted in their nightshirts for emergency.

By Dorothy O. Rea
Deseret News Staff Writer

The first long distance, high tension electric transmission line in America stretched from Provo River, across Utah Lake and up the Oquirrh Mountains to the highrise mining town of Mercur.

It was 1897 when L. L. Nunn, an electric power engineer, designed and built the line. So remarkable was the accomplishment that Nunn and his brother, Paul N., were chosen to design and construct the famous Niagara Falls electric plant in 1904.

The trail of water-powered electric plants across the Mountain West was first envisioned by the Nunn brothers and their Telluride Power Co. By 1904, the company and its allied industries had six power stations and nearly 1,000 miles of line in Colorado, Utah and Montana.

IDAHO PLANT

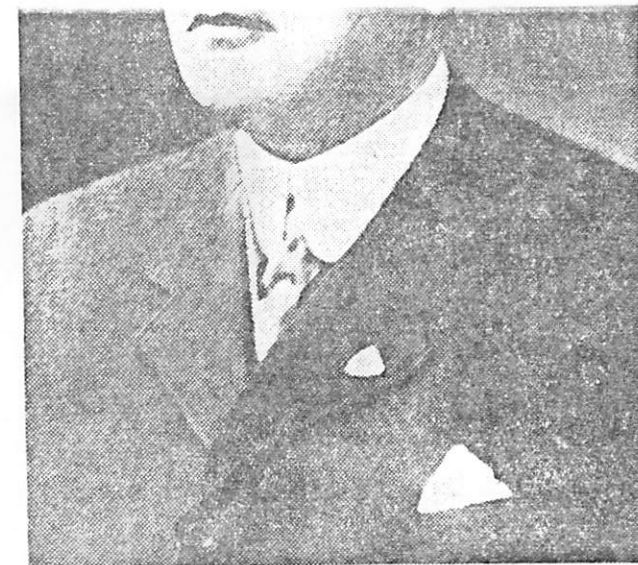
L. L. Nunn acquired from the federal government the right to use Bear Lake as a reservoir and built the power plant at Grace, Idaho. He organized the Beaver River

Power Company and built its two plants on the Beaver River in Southern Utah plus one on the Malad River in Idaho.

Of the historically famous experience at Provo, L. L. Nunn wrote, "Assured by the success of the original plant (in Colorado) we began as early as 1894 to seek for larger water-power sites and larger markets in the West. After long investigation, we decided to appropriate the waters of Provo River in Provo Canyon, Utah County.

TO MINE TOWNS

"Here we installed a temporary plant of 2,500 horsepower, under 125 feet head, transmitting current under 40,000 volts pressure to the De La Mar Golden Gate properties at Mercur, 35 miles distant . . . And later to Eure-



Paul Nunn . . . with brother made history in Utah.

ka, Silver City, Robinson and the towns and mines of the Tintic Mining District, approximately 45 miles distant.

"Later we completed the triangle by erecting 28 miles of transmission line between Eureka and Mercur. We have further developed our Provo River power by extending our waterways — by flume and tunnel — to the mouth of Provo Canyon and there utilizing the water under 345 head at Olmsted, our newly constructed 9,650 horsepower generator capacity plant."

TRAINING SCHOOL

Rich memories of L. L. Nunn dwell in one of Utah's most picturesque buildings located at the Olmsted Power Plant of Utah Power and Light Co. in Provo Canyon. This is where his fondest

dreams, of economical and transmission of came true. This is where trained the young men would take over the industry.

A sparkling chapter in Provo's history came with the era of "the Nunn boys." These were young men from Utah County, hand-picked by L. L. Nunn for their ability in learning skills of electrical engineers. The boys studied at the Olmsted Plant in the building of fine materials, also picked by L. L. Nunn.

Telluride Power Co. was sold to Utah Power and Light Co. in the summer of 1912. The industry, picked by Mr. Nunn, took its place among the most important in Utah.